United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by the Radin Institute for Family Health Education and Promotion, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20919 (E) 090204

This statement addresses how important is the role of men and boys in successful integration of gender equity initiative into reproductive health programs. Achieving equity between women and men will require changes at many levels, including changing behaviors at individual level, changing legal frameworks and economic institutions at community level. The global strategy for the promotion of gender equity was mainly established in the Beijing Platform for Action of Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995. However, the full communication and partnership between men and women and sharing of responsibilities between men and women as equal partners to achieve better reproductive health were emphasized in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).The Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) clearly set a new agenda in 1994 when it talked about male responsibilities and participation: "The objective is to promote gender equality in all spheres of life, including family and community life, and to encourage and enable men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behavior and their social and family roles."

Despite the commitment to promoting gender equity in reproductive health programs there are barriers to the expansion of male involvement:

- Most family planning and reproductive health programs have been designed for adult women. The exclusion of men from programs means the exclusion of men from education regarding sexuality, fertility, anatomy, contraception, and the prevention of transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) and HIV/AIDS.

- Reproductive health care providers have been trained to counsel women, and need to adapt to counseling men, or to counsel men and women together. Providers can not assume that men are not interested in contraception or reproductive health, as many studies show that men are supportive of contraception and believe that contraceptive and family planning decisions should be made jointly.

- Program planning for increasing male involvement is impeded by a lack of up-to-date information on male attitudes, knowledge and practices related to family planning and reproductive health.

- Adolescent males have very little access to reproductive health services as most programs and services are designed and aimed at adult women. The lack of appropriate information and services for young men helps to perpetuate harmful attitudes and stereotypical behavior.

Related issues include the effect of the traditional role of the father on health and nutrition, and the relation of fathering to early childhood development. Other issues concerned violence in the family setting and gender relations in sexual decision-making and their consequences for HIV transmission. It was found that major barriers to men's involvement are poverty and unemployment, fathers' lack of contact with their children and patterns of gender role socialization.

To enhance gender equity and support partnerships between men and women in families, we believe that there are many ways of accommodating change while remaining faithful to valued cultural traditions.

Men's roles in families are not improved automatically by their presence, nor do children necessarily benefit. Problems may arise if the father is at home but

decision-making is not shared by both parents, as is often the case. Child welfare suffers when men unleash violence against women and children, when men spend income on goods that do not contribute to family welfare, such as alcohol, and when they serve as negative role models.

Family life education should be based on real families and real life. It is especially important that girls be given the knowledge, skills and means to be financially responsible for themselves and any children they may have. Boys need to be taught that fatherhood means supporting their children financially and sharing responsibility for their care.

Women's empowerment begins in the household with equality, autonomy and respect. Achieving equality between men and women in the family is the foundation on which empowerment in other areas is based. Women's lives are usually described in terms of motherhood, while men's lives are usually characterized as heads of household or wage- earners. Men's role as fathers tends to be vague. Yet, men's commitment to their children is key to the quality of family life.

Children, parents and society benefit from men's active involvement with their children. There are economic benefits because it reduces the dependency on women and, at the same time, allow more time to be spent by parents on their child's development. There are also social benefits because when fathers are actively involved, children's emotional and social well-being and self-esteem are enhanced, and the likelihood of behavioral problems falls.

Economic, cultural and other factors influence the amount of time fathers spend with their children. Cultural factors are perhaps paramount. In many societies, fathers' limited participation in childcare is linked very strongly to beliefs that close father-child relations are not appropriate.

A set of practical policies and programs should include the following:

- To successfully promote male involvement in the family, concerned leaders, governments, and NGOs must work to educate boys and men to prepare them for a broader fathering role. This kind of education, combined with experience, can strengthen the bonds between fathers and children.

- The media could be used to popularize a positive picture of relationships between fathers and children. The increasing prevalence of paternity leave for men as a key development should be spread beyond the North.

- Policies and programs must be put in place, which recognize the critical role of both parents in the family. Reinforcing the parent-child link is critical to efforts to empower women and promote gender equity.

- Employment, economic and childcare policies should support parents' necessary pursuit of livelihoods as well as their equally essential commitments to children and partners.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session

1-12 March 2004

Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Union of Women, Hadassah (Women's Zionist Organization of America), International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Federation of University Women, Pax Romana, Salvation Army and Socialist International Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20927 (E) 090204

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, present to the 48th session of CSW the following statement for information and consideration.

Referring to the debate on Women's Issues in the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly, during which Angela King, Assistant Secretary General, stated that gender equality and violence against women present a continuing challenge to the international community,

taking into account the continuous changes in the socio-economic frameworks which have caused changes in the social tissue thus affecting personal and inter-personal relationships,

well aware of the effect of the "missing fathers" on the development of children, and leaving boys in particular without male role models, and

registering with deep concern the steady increase of maltreatment, abuse and exploitation of children of both sexes, we

urge governments and their agencies to initiate programmes which support the equal distribution of public means as well as the equal distribution of responsibility between women and men in forming the well-being of their societies, and

expect effective measures a) against the feminisation of poverty by developing counter strategies and b) to ensure the inclusion of more men in the educational process. Gender equality has to become a common concern for the benefit of societies because it is a crucial factor in developing a country's fundamental justice system.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session

1-12 March 2004

Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, European Union of Women, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, National Council of German Women's Organization, Salvation Army and Socialist International Women, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20941 (E) 100204

We, the undersigned international and national non-governmental organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC, members of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, present to the 48th session of CSW the following statement for information and consideration.

In times of conflict, humanitarian action involves protecting people in the field of war, but in recent years this has become even more complex as it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between humanitarian, political and military intervention. Decisions on military intervention should be taken by the UN Security Council, and be carried out within the framework of international law.

Women continue to have little access to protection and assistance, as humanitarian aid often fails to reach them. Humanitarian action must address the specific needs of women, particularly in relation to their physical and psycho-social care. The use of sexual violence as a weapon of war leaves women traumatised and has also contributed to the spread of sexually transmitted infections, notably HIV/AIDS.

We note that 80% of the world's refugees are women and children and 90% of war victims are now civilians, mainly women and children, and that a wide spectrum of studies demonstrate that the mobilisation of male soldiers - both in warring factions and as peacekeepers - contributes to the growth of prostitution around military bases and army camps, subsequently increasing child prostitution, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Conflict prevention and conflict resolution by other than military means are therefore more urgent than ever. It is therefore essential that women be included in analysis, policy making and negotiations since they are more likely than men to be prepared to open and maintain a dialogue and to try new paths, and since women are not locked into classical confrontational behaviour.

Until now women's participation in formal peace processes has been limited. That is why the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is so essential.

We commend the UN Secretary General for nominating Ms Jane Holl Lute to the position of Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations and welcome the successful efforts of the UNHCR to tailor its work to the needs of women refugees.

We welcome the entry into force of both the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the supplementary Protocol on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. These legally binding instruments are important tools, in particular in conflict and post-conflict situations. They will help to protect the victims and combat trafficking in persons - especially women and children.

Assuring stability and human security is the first step in reconstructing a country or region after conflict. The equal participation of women in all stages of peace negotiations and reconciliation processes must be ensured. After the end of a conflict men often grant themselves work and other opportunities in society and take the lead in rebuilding their community. Women need to be given equal opportunities to take part in the rebuilding of their community.

We, the undersigned NGOs,

call for the improvement of judicial systems through the strengthening of procedures and mechanisms for the reporting, investigation, prosecution and ending of violence against women in war situations and other conflicts, as well as the recognition of rape as a war crime which must be subject to prevention, pursuit and punishment by national and international justice;

urge carefully balanced reporting on armed conflict and in so doing advance an objective and human picture, in contrast to the widespread bellicose and biased presentation of such conflicts;

call for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons, with special attention paid to women and girls in order to address their specific needs and ensure equal access to humanitarian assistance;

reiterate that persecution based on gender should be considered a reason for granting asylum;

stress that medical and psycho-social support for women and girls who are sexually abused in conflict and post-conflict periods must be guaranteed as a priority intervention;

call on the UN Secretary General to increase the number of women in peace-related functions such as Special Representatives and Envoys, beginning with a minimum of 30%. The prevention of widespread rape and assault of women and girls should be a priority in the context of intervention by the United Nations. Effective measures should be taken to avoid and prevent such abuses in all international and regional conflicts;

strongly request the involvement of women in peace keeping, in preventive diplomacy and in all stages of peace mediation and negotiation.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session

1-12 March 2004

Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and the International Federation of University Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20948 (E) 090204

The five member organizations of Project Five-0: International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International, and Zonta International; each in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, share the common goals of promoting women's human rights worldwide and working to advance the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women.

More than fifty-five years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, women throughout the world are still struggling to attain the equal rights and dignity for all human beings enshrined in Article 1 of the Declaration.

We have just marked the tenth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, where women's human rights were placed center stage on the global agenda, yet the political will to implement commitments made is lagging in many parts of the world. Gender inequality continues to have a profound effect on women, children, families and communities worldwide.

Men play a key role in bringing about gender equality since, in most societies, men exercise preponderant power in every sphere of life. It is only through a partnership of shared responsibilities and power that the removal of all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life that the attainment of a full and equal share for women in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making can be realized.

A critical aspect of the engagement of men and boys in promoting gender equality must be a commitment by men to address socially constructed gender roles in the family and community. As children first learn from observation, it is important that men and women share in responsibilities and decision-making, that girls and boys partake equally in family responsibilities, and that the worth and aspirations of each adult and child be respected. Community leaders, who are primarily men, should strongly support equality in families, encourage participation of women in community decision-making, and strongly censor all forms of violence against women and girls. Men must speak out against harmful practices such as sex-selection abortions, female genital mutilation, and so-called honour killings as well as all forms of violence against women and girls in the home until these violations of women's rights are abandoned.

Education is a powerful tool in the attainment of gender equality, and universal primary education is the second of the Millennium Development Goals. Men in their various roles in governments, communities and families must assume the lead in making girls' education a top priority. Because students continue to construct their societal roles throughout their education, teachers, curricula and the social culture surrounding the classroom must build and reinforce non-discrimination and gender equality.

Young men need to be educated to respect women's self-determination and to share responsibility with women in matters of parenthood and sexual and reproductive behavior. Special efforts must be directed at the behavior of men and boys to halt the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Leaders at all levels, as well as parents and educators, should support positive male role models that enable boys to become gender-sensitive adults. Less rigidity and stereotyping of masculinity foster the broad social and cultural changes associated with gender equality, create options for men and boys and are likely to yield benefits in their psychological well-being.

The human rights catastrophe presented by sexual exploitation of women and girls, which includes prostitution, sex trafficking, the internet bride industry, pornography and sex tourism must be urgently addressed by men and boys, who are creating the demand for this global sex industry. Governments and all elements of society must take a vigorous role in opposing organized crime, government corruption and economic policies that support these violations of women's and girl's rights.

Men, who are the primary mediators in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction, must ensure women's equal participation in all aspects of peace processes so that gender equality is central in the development of legislative, judicial, political, electoral, economic and social structures and in the building of lasting peace.

As men occupy a dominant role in the development of industrial policies, they need to assume a leadership role in changing the gender-based division of labour into new economic structures where women and men enjoy equal treatment, pay and power. Encouraging men to take an active role in family and household responsibilities necessitates the formulation, promotion and implementation of such measures as child and dependent care, parental leave and flexible working schemes for men and women. Moreover, exploitation and harassment of female labourers must not be tolerated.

Since men alone will not automatically change ingrained attitudes and behaviors, governments have the primary responsibility to initiate and strengthen policies and programs to protect women's rights as human rights and to advance a gender-equal society. Moreover, within their own organizational processes, governments should look to removing embedded gender hierarchies, promoting gender balance in policy making processes and bodies as well as to making senior men's commitment to gender equality visible as strategies to advance gender equality. Statistical data disaggregated by gender and age should be collected, analyzed, and used to formulate policies that target urgent gender inequality issues.

It is essential that men not be a background to women's forums and conferences where gender equality policy is discussed. Men should be encouraged to attend such meetings and to bring to the table their ideas as well as the concerns, problems, interests and aspirations of men, which are an integral part of future progress toward gender equality.

As fathers, sons, partners, brothers, relatives and friends, men and boys have a vested interest in better education for women, improvements in women's health and a system of gender equality that does not limit or damage the lives of women and girls. The collective interests of women and men must be articulated and disseminated in forms appropriate to each country and context in order to nurture a better, more equitable world.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session

1-12 March 2004

Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, International Federation on Ageing, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; All India Women's Conference, Armenian Assembly of America, Baha'i International Community, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, National Council of Women of the United States, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association International, United States Committee for UNIFEM and the World Young Women's Christian Association, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Altrusa International, Armenian International Women's Association and United Nations Associations of the USA, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20973 (E) 090204

We, the international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the Economic and Security Council and members of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, both applaud and direct your attention to the outstanding leadership of UNIFEM in the area of women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building, a thematic issue for this forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

UNIFEM and women peace activists were partners in bringing to the forefront the situation of women worldwide that led to the adoption in October 2000 of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The Security Council has recognized UNIFEM's important role in directing attention to the needs of girls and women of all ages affected by armed conflict as well as UNIFEM's contributions in promoting the role of women in bringing gender issues to bear in finding solutions in conflict resolution and peace building.

UNIFEM promotes women's leadership to ensure that women have an equal voice in shaping policies that affect their lives. In the area of governance and peace-building, UNIFEM's work focuses on peace and security, by promoting assistance to women in armed conflict situations and supporting their participation in peace processes as well as strengthening institutional mechanisms, legislation and policies in support of gender equality.

In its July 2003 report to the General Assembly, UNIFEM recorded five significant achievements in 2002 in this area:

- Strengthened gender focus in information collection and exchange to improve prevention and early warning mechanisms. The highlight of this area was the launch of *Women, War, and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment of the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role In Peace-building*, a follow-up to Security Council Resolution 1325. Two experts undertook 14 missions to document women's experiences as survivors, peace-builders and aspiring policy makers in conflict and post-conflict situations. The experts made 22 key recommendations as an agenda for action toward the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.
- Improved protection and assistance for women affected by conflict focusing on preventing gender based violence and sexual exploitation.
- Making women and gender perspectives central to peace processes by leveraging the political, financial and technical support needed to impact peace processes nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Expanded support for enhancing gender equality and women's rights in post-conflict peace-building nations such as Afghanistan, Kosovo and Timor-Leste.
- Strengthened gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legislative and judicial processes in many countries by building women's capacities as candidates and voters, judges and lawyers.

UNIFEM's work in peace-related activities in 2002 alone embraced 25 countries. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM has devoted special energy to strengthening the capacity and programmes of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to address the formidable challenge of bringing women into the mainstream in the development of new legislative, judicial, political, electoral, economic and social structures.

Through its efforts UNIFEM is helping to foster a new definition of global peace and security, not one of the traditional weapon-based security, but a vision grounded in economic and social justice as the basis for development with human rights and human development as the focus.

The NGO Committee wholeheartedly endorses UNIFEM's important work and urges increased financial support from Member States and private funders. We need the leadership of UNIFEM to achieve a secure and peaceful future free from violence and discrimination.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by Empowering Widows in Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20967 (E) 100204

Armed conflict creates millions of widows and wives of the "disappeared". In the aftermath of conflict violence often continues, increasing the numbers of bereaved women.

In the reconstruction process these women are so often neglected, their voices are not heard. They have no legal rights. Neither their immediate nor their long-term needs are adequately addressed.

These abandoned women should be crucial players in the reconstruction process, as they bear the sole responsibility for nurturing and raising the young generation. They are the main breadwinners for their children, other orphans, and the sick, wounded, old, frail and traumatised victims of violence and war. They are the very backbone of society and we should empower them.

Homelessness, poverty, vulnerability to violence from many sections of society, including their own male relatives, is the common plight of widows of war. The instability of the aftermath exposes them, whether old or young, to sexual abuse and exploitation from foreign occupying forces, militia and bandits because they are women without men. Years after peace accords have been signed, widows in the Balkans, East Timor, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Angola and Afghanistan continue to suffer. The plight of the widows of Iraq today should be causing all of us concern.

Justice for these women is not merely an issue of bringing those men responsible for crimes against humanity to courts and tribunals, so that they are incarcerated in prison. The priorities in justice for these widows are for security, protection from violence, enjoyment of the right to education and training for paid work, for adequate shelter, the repair of their ruined homes, for the wherewithal to obtain proper food, health care and clothing.

There is little or no research or data available about these vulnerable women who have so much unused potential for peace and democracy building.

However, from the few studies undertaken on the issues of widowhood in post-conflict situations we know that, in general, war widows are left in extreme poverty, and that this poverty impacts most negatively upon their children. Many are left as refugees or IDPs and returning without a husband brings new problems in traditional societies. Thus, widows' children are often without schooling, for it is their labour that is required to support the family. Besides, widows' children may be so badly nourished, ill-clothed and poorly sheltered that, physical and emotional health problems often block their inclusion in education programmes. From Kosovo to Afghanistan, Angola to Bosnia, similar consequences of widowhood in post-conflict can be identified.

In Afghanistan and Iraq young widows and the daughters of widows have been sold into forced marriages, exploited labour, prostitution, and trafficking. Widows, because they have no longer the protection of a male partner, are exposed to rape and other violence. Traditional customs may deny them rights of inheritance or land ownership so that there is no possible escape from their poverty. In Rwanda, widows who were victims of rape during the genocide, continue, nearly a decade later, to face abuse and stigma, and without the most rudimentary health care for lack of funds. Deliberately infected with the AIDS virus when raped, they are routinely singled out for maltreatment and blamed for the spread of the disease, while those who have dared, with great courage, to give evidence to the Arusha Tribunal about the genocide, live in fear of their lives. They have had no protection when they return to their villages. Protection of widow witnesses before, during and after war crimes trials is essential if justice is to be done.

However, not one UN agency or international NGO has, to date, attempted even to count the numbers of widows in a population emerging from conflict. It is estimated that over 40% of adult women in Afghanistan and Iraq are widows. And in Iraq, women continue to be widowed as violence has claimed more than 10,000 Iraq lives since the formal war ended.

Widows have a unique role to play in conflict resolution, management, prevention, and in peace and democracy building. All of them, whatever the side their dead husbands belonged to in the conflict, have a common hope. They hope for peace and stability so as to bring up, house, clothe, feed and educate their children. They wish this next generation to live useful lives contributing to the rebuilding of their communities and society in general. It is imperative that the international community supports their efforts.

In the reconstruction process, widows' voices must be heard, and all efforts should be made to help them build up their own organisations which can represent their needs and articulate their long-term hopes. They must be involved in decision-making at every level, from the national to the village. Reforms in the law and new constitutions must reflect the rights they have under international conventions, in keeping with the Beijing Platform for Action, the Further Actions of 2000 and SCR 1325. Their value as peace builders is measureless.

There are some fine examples of widows, from opposing factions, working together to build the peace. Widows appear best motivated to bridge ethnic divides and unite fragmented communities because they share common concerns.

Given the huge increases in the number of widows of all ages due to conflict, it is time that their roles in conflict resolution and prevention are properly acknowledged. We know that poverty breeds conflict. One of the major root causes of the terrible poverty of millions of children following war is their mothers' widowhood and low status.

We invite this Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session to ensure that addressing the particular needs and roles of widows in peace building are written into the final documents. Again, we ask (as we have at previous sessions of the CSW) that the status of widows be prioritised as a further "emerging issue" in 2005. And that the UN Secretary-General appoints a Special Rapporteur on the situation of widows in post-conflict reconstruction.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by Mothers' Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-20990 (E) 100204

Introduction

The Mothers' Union is an Anglican voluntary organisation promoting the well being of families throughout the world. Our three million members, the majority of whom are women, are actively engaged in a variety of initiatives within their own communities. In particular our *Family Life* and *Literacy and Development* programmes allow for a dynamic process of cradle to grave empowerment of women by women. Empowerment is an essential tool for achieving equal participation by women in the peace process.

The role of women

Women already execute a pivotal role in conflict resolution and peace building. Women are both social and political actors in their families and communities during and post conflict. Some of the broad range of responsibilities they assume include: income, food, children, sick relatives and orphans. Historically, it is women who have been willing to reach across divisive barriers in order to rehabilitate and reconstruct daily lives and needs.

However, women's active participation has been undervalued and dismissed in public and political spheres traditionally dominated by men. Women face many varied obstacles in their quest to build a more just and equitable society that will in turn lead to a more peaceful future, including, cultural stereotypes, discrimination, poverty and illiteracy.

Guiding principles

Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post conflict peace building will only be achieved if a holistic approach is adopted. The approach detailed in UN Resolution 1325 will not independently secure parity for women. UN Resolution 1325 needs to be incorporated into an already existing framework of community action; sustainable peace cannot be imposed from the outside.

Efforts to involve women at the highest national political levels must start at the grassroots. Strategies and initiatives must primarily target women and men in their communities so that gender inequalities in the prevailing culture can be addressed. A transformative approach must be employed so that the underlying causes of women's unequal access to social, economic, political and public structures can be tackled. Involving women in the formal structures of a national peace process, using UN Resolution 1325 and other international legal instruments, will be more effective and sustainable in the long term following this dual approach.

Redefining 'Political'

The concept of the term 'political' has historically been understood as engagement with formal political institutions. However, a new understanding of 'political' must be sought that includes the work primarily carried out by women. Women are very active and engaged at the grassroots level of societies, working within and across communities to create positive change. This work is indeed 'political' and needs to be accredited as an integral and formal part of the political process.

Women develop relationships, build bridges and organise activity across political, religious, and ethnic boundaries. Women organise campaigns, demonstrations, lobby groups, teach, learn, share experiences and build community trust. Women enable change to take place at the national level by transforming communities and their cultures.

- Governments need to recognise women's role in society. By addressing local needs, women help to shape and develop their communities.
- UN agencies and donors must formally invest in women's organisations as a strategy for conflict prevention, resolution and peace building.

- UN peace initiatives and operations must improve and expand collaboration with existing women's groups to bring them formally into the peace process.

Achieving Equal Participation

Women remain extensively under represented in positions of power and decision making at national and international levels. They need equal social, political and legal rights in order to contribute to national governance and formal peace processes.

International targets for securing the representation of women in state institutions face two sets of major obstacles:

- At the government level there is a lack of financial resources, gender awareness and political will.
- The prevailing culture and societal norms regarding the role of women present barriers at a local level.

Gender Mainstreaming – Formal Representation

Quotas and ratios are often used as a mechanism for recruiting women in to the political process. Increasingly, in post conflict situations new constitutions and governments specify a minimum target of women representatives in institutions. However, raising numbers of women in political systems does not guarantee genuine change. The reasons can be three-fold: promotion but lack of decision-making authority, women being suppressed in their positions and women not seeking to advance their own gender's rights.

Governments need to:

- Create effective structures, instruments and resources to enact and enforce quotas, as in the case of Rwanda
- Take positive steps to endorse women
- Promote the active and full participation of women
- Monitor the opportunities and roles women are undertaking
- Assess the effectiveness of measures in order to make progress

UN peace operations need to:

- Ensure gender issues are a priority in all peace keeping activities
- Implement gender equality in all peace processes, agreements and transitional governments
- Ensure gender issues and training are integral to all UN units and teams and do not continue to be isolated from mainstream peace keeping.

Gender Mainstreaming – Culture and Education

To tackle cultural attitudes towards women's role in the public and political sphere, governments must acknowledge the many and varied roles that women assume throughout their lives. International institutions and states must:

- Recognise that real societal change must begin at family and community level
- Attribute political value to the work of women
- Encourage community and religious leaders to facilitate and promote the work of women

Providing education is the single most important action in achieving gender equality, preventing conflict and building peace post conflict. Education is the vehicle which enables societal change to occur. Education empowers women with the confidence and knowledge to cultivate their own advancement and mobilize change in the private, public and political arenas.

- States, with the support of the international community, must intensify efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of removing gender disparities in primary and secondary education.

Through participatory education programmes, such as the Mothers' Union Literacy and Development Programme, participants learn about their rights and community issues as they acquire literacy skills. Men and

women can discuss issues together and learn to understand each other. Men realize that women have a voice, women realise they have the right to a view, to express it and to be heard equally.

Building Capacity

Although women are very active and influential at grassroots levels in conflict resolution they continue to be excluded from formal peace negotiations. In Northern Ireland only formal political parties were recognised in peace negotiations, therefore women formed their own non-sectarian political party. This is a giant step for women and for others to follow suit they need to be empowered and enabled with information and support. Governments and UN agencies need to:

- Ensure women are informed and educated about their rights
- Provide education and training in literacy, leadership and negotiation skills
- Support women in accessing decision makers and articulating their visions and needs
- Allocate resources to enable women to develop and expand training programmes

The Mothers' Union in Burundi organises regional peace and reconciliation workshops to give individuals the skills to engage with the peace process. As well as being able to serve their own communities these women then share their skills with others.

Conclusion

It is vital that women who have lived with conflict and will continue to build peace once UN troops have left feel they have invested in, and can develop, the peace process. Whilst responsibility for political reconstruction rests with national authorities, the sustainability of the peace process in many ways depends on the involvement of women and communities.

Post conflict, imposing military and economic structures alone will not rebuild a nation. There needs to be a shift in policy in conflict situations from a military focus on security to one that includes integrated human development. Nation building must assume a participatory and holistic approach to counter accusations that Resolution 1325 is just rhetoric.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Catholic Women's League Australia, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21003 (E) 100204

At this the forty-eighth session of the Commission of the Status of Women, we wish to affirm our support for the role of men and boys working with women to bring about gender equality for all.

Gendered violence occurs at all levels of society and in all societies throughout the world. Violence against women remains one of the most significant obstacles to the achievement of gender equality. Recent surveys initiated by the European Parliament revealed that at least one in five women suffers acts of violence from their spouse or partner. Trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual servitude persists as one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity. It is estimated that over 4 million persons, especially women and children, are trafficked each year across international borders.

We call upon all men and women to acknowledge the role they may play in perpetrating violence against women and to work together in a concerted worldwide campaign to both eliminate this violence and promote respect of self and others.

We advocate the adoption of appropriate measures, particularly in primary and secondary education, to ultimately modify those social and cultural patterns of conduct of both men and women that engender violence. Education of both males and females should be equal, collaborative with the family and the value of each gender re-enforced in curricula. Biases in teaching and access to learning materials also need to be eliminated particularly in those developing countries where girls are routinely denied access to even the most basic education. Further, each student should be able to participate in education safely, confidently and without fear. Teachers should also be permitted to instruct free of menace and harassment.

Any proposed educational program should take into consideration the differing brain physiology between girls and boys. The male brain secretes less oxytocin and serotonin and more testosterone and vasopressin than the female brain causing the male brain to seek competition in its conquest to prove self worth and identity.[1] Any resultant tendency towards physical violence in these developmental years can be countered by appropriate adult female and male role models.

We also endorse the elimination of prejudices and cultural practices—such as female genital mutilation, female foeticide or child marriage—based on the belief in the inferiority of one sex and the superiority of the other. The value of the traditional family as both providers of the human capital—male and female—for each nation and primary educators in acceptable male/female value behaviours and societal norms should be recognized and acknowledged by NGOs and the UN and its organisations and States' parties. All governments of member states of the UN, if adherents to the Universal Charter of Human Rights, are obligated to work for gender equality. Government assistance for parents to implement the complementary male/female roles and interaction at all stages of a family life cycle should be formulated and implemented.

[1] Michael Gurian, CNN.com (health 05/10/02).

Community education and advocacy programs should be designed for and directed to both genders in the community. These should cover issues such as gender discrimination, the impact of violence against women, the dangers inherent in the use of contraception, the health risks linked to abortion and Morning After Pills (MAP), the benefits of 'moral restraint', and most importantly the value of **all** women and their resourcefulness for the community either at home or in the workplace.

We decry the continued promotion of contraceptives, abortion, MAPs and legalized prostitution, all of which can cause harm to the mind and body of women and young girls. Recent statistics show an irrefutable causal relationship between the worldwide increase of STIs[2], cancer, HPV and HIV[3] (with its deadly consequences), and the so-called liberation of female sexuality through the ready availability and usage of contraceptive devices. Condom use is still widely promoted by governments and relevant international bodies as a means of securing "safe sex" despite even the acknowledgement of condom manufacturers that '...the only safe sex is abstinence'.

Fifty years ago Drs. Evelyn and John Billings developed the Billings Ovulation Method (BOM) a natural method of fertility regulation. While this method receives little support from those involved in Family Planning, following the Beijing Conference, China has wholeheartedly embraced this method of family planning with great success. Doctors receive training in this method in all of China's cantons. Those who use this simple method, and do so correctly, can achieve 100% success. This method empowers women as they learn to understand how their body works which is their rightful entitlement. For more information on this method, we refer to their website at:

www.woomb.org

Despite the mounting scientific evidence against the primary tools of the pro-choice movement, women who defend the rights of the unborn, promote monogamy and argue against the decrease in age of sexual consent or legalized prostitution are frequently disparaged and marginalized by those women and men who promote "choice" and by many political leaders, governments and international bodies cowered by the rhetoric of the "choice" army.

We call for a global recognition of the suffering of those ordinary women who are left to deal with the daily consequences of acts of violence against both their minds and bodies.

We advocate for the development of global media strategies that denounce all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, female genital mutilation, female foeticide, the use of artificial contraceptive devices, abortion and sexual servitude.

[2] Sexually Transmitted Infections
[3] Human papilloma virus

While some men do not support the idea of equality, many men do. A leading men's organisation in the United States, "Founding Fathers" acknowledges the realities of violence against women and children. They want a new kind of society where decency and respect require no special day on the calendar, where boys are taught that violence does not equal strength and where men stand with courage, lead with conviction and speak with one voice to say "No More".

We call upon all women and men, the UN and its agencies, member states and NGOs to advance the creation of a civilisation in 'which every human person is welcomed, honoured and revered—whatever their stage of life and their condition, female or male, handicapped or healthy, rich or poor.'

We also call upon both men and women, NGO's, the UN and its agencies and member states to support and promote moral restraint, abstinence programmes and monogamist relationships.

We call upon the UN, its agencies and member states to review their extant education programs and ensure that they bring about the elimination of gender violence.

Further, we call upon the UN and its agencies, Member States and NGOs to support and assist those men's organisations which are working to counteract violence against women and children.

We further urge the UN, its agencies, member states and NGOs to revisit item ii of the 47th Session of the CSW with its particular references to violence against women and children especially the trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of sexual servitude.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21009 (E) 100204

The 1.2 million members of Rotary in 166 countries are actively meeting the goals of the 48th Commission on the Status of Women. Through Rotary projects, men are introduced to and involved in the issues women face in developed and developing countries. Rotary also offers equal access to its clubs, projects, youth exchange, scholarships and group study exchange programs.

Rotary's Rotaract (ages 18-30) and Interact (ages 14-18) clubs involve men and boys in developing projects that promote gender equality. And, because Rotary includes men and women, projects that assist women are planned by both genders. For example, both male and female members of the Rotary Club of Winnetka, Illinois, USA and the Uganda Agency for Development are helping women in Uganda by providing micro-credit loans. The loans are for basic business practices such as small shops and sewing centers.

Anthony Kambich, Rotary member and chairman of the Ugandan project, states, "The willingness of the women to now assist each other through counsel and financial support has helped break the dependence on men who formerly preyed upon them, forcing women into a life of prostitution, dependence, and eventually death caused by HIV/AIDS."

The Ugandan micro-credit loans are but one of many Rotary projects focused on empowering women toward greater self-sufficiency — and leadership. In 2002, Rotary established the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. Through partnerships with seven prestigious universities around the world, the Rotary Centers advance the field of peace issues and diplomacy among the next generation of local and global leaders. Women have excelled at the opportunity. Today, more women than men have applied and been selected for the scholarships. The 2002-2004 scholar class has 58 percent women while the 2003-2005 scholar class includes 44 women out of 67 scholars. Rotary's support ensures that women from some 60 countries will be future leaders committed to peace.

Will it be BENEFICIAL for all concerned? This is one of four questions Rotary members ask themselves before initiating any project or program. Creating a world where everyone has an opportunity to be safe, economically independent, and educated is Rotary's mission. Rotary clubs on every continent are developing projects that benefit each individual: men, women, boys and girls. Filipino Rotary members, for example, are teaching young adults new technological advances through a basic electronics course. The project also assists participants in finding jobs after the course's completion.

Rotary will continue to encourage members to develop projects to address the needs of women in their communities, and provide women access to education, economic and social development, and healthcare. Rotary works to ensure that its programs and projects truly benefit all the world's citizens.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotary members in more than 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by United States Committee for UNIFEM, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21015 (E) 100204

The United States Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM/USA) strongly supports the consistent and continual leadership provided by UNIFEM in the area of peace and security through its work to strengthen the gender focus in prevention and early warning mechanisms; improve protection and assistance for women affected by conflict; make women and gender perspective central to the peace processes; and support gender justice in post-conflict peace building.

UNIFEM, partnering with civil society organizations, had a major role in advocating for the October 2000 Security Council Resolution #1325 on women, peace and security - the first-ever addressing the status of women in armed conflict and peace-building. UNIFEM provided relevant information to the Security Council on areas referred to in Resolution #1325 and facilitated the Council's direct interaction with women affected by conflict.

UNIFEM also commissioned an Independent Expert Assessment of the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building, which was released in 2002. This report emphasized that the UN system, governments and NGOs need to do more to mobilize resources and means to support women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations and offered 22 key recommendations for the full implementation of Security Council Resolution #1325. The report found that while there is compelling evidence that women are effective agents of peace they still have little influence on decisions to wage war or rebuild their countries.

UNIFEM has prioritized its efforts to promote women's leadership and to bring women's voices to the peace table. In 2002 alone UNIFEM was engaged in peace and security initiatives in 25 countries. In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, UNIFEM facilitated the establishment of peace clubs to make women's voices heard in advocating for an end to conflict. In Columbia, UNIFEM's support to the National Mobilization of Women against War assisted women's networks to develop a unified voice against war. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNIFEM provided assistance to the Women's Peace Forum that brought together 200 women for the final phase of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue to ensure women's participation in the on-going peace process. In Sierra Leone, UNIFEM has provided gender-based human rights training for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

UNIFEM has devoted extensive efforts to bringing women and their perspectives into the mainstream of national reconstruction in Afghanistan. UNIFEM is concerned with helping to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in the on-going legal reform process and the drafting of Afghanistan's new Constitution. UNIFEM has provided seed funds for women's judges and lawyer associations to foster participation in the political process and to strengthen the provision of legal services to women. UNIFEM has also supported the establishment of a working group on gender and law with participants from the Constitution Committee, Supreme Court and Judicial Commission.

UNIFEM's major work in Afghanistan has been to support the capacity building and programme development of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Making efforts to reach more women, UNIFEM is assisting the Ministry in establishing women's centres in several provinces. The centres will provide literacy and skills training as well as legal, psychosocial and health services. Community centres to reach the needs of displaced and returnee women are starting up.

The United States Committee for UNIFEM, one of sixteen voluntary committees worldwide working to support the mission of UNIFEM, has undertaken to raise funds for the establishment of women's centres in Afghanistan as part of its overall efforts to extend public awareness and increased financial contributions to UNIFEM's activities. UNIFEM/USA is also partnering with Peace X Peace to promote the role of women in peacebuilding through the documentary *"PEACE BY PEACE: Women on the Frontlines,"* which profiles women building peace in Afghanistan, Argentina, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Burundi, and includes Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM, as a featured speaker.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
14 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by European Women's Lobby, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21027 (E) 110204

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) welcomes the fact that the CSW will review the implementation of policies and actions taken to address "women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building", and states the following:

The EWL recognizes that the impact of war and conflict disproportionately affects women and girls and that violence against women is systematic, extreme and widespread in situations of conflict and war. Violence against women is a continuum, a continuous series of physical, verbal and sexual assaults and acts of sexual violence committed by men against women with the explicit aim of hurting, degrading, intimidating and silencing women, taking away their ability to control their life situation and killing women. Violence against women in times of conflict and war is not simply a by-product of war but it is often a strategic tool, a reaffirmation of the:

"(...) historically unequal power relations between women and men, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement." (paragraph 118 of the Beijing Platform for Action).

Some forms of violence against women are particularly acute in situations of conflict and war. The presence and mobilization of armed (soldiers) and civilian (humanitarian) factions contribute to the growth of the use of women as sexual slaves by soldiers and other officials, which increases the demand for the prostitution of women and girls and contributes to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Of all the abuses committed in war or by repressive regimes, rape in particular is inflicted predominantly against women. Rape is never incidental or private. In a war situation rape is often a strategy planned and organized for achieving specific and military objectives (i.e. a weapon of war).

The EWL recognizes the changing nature of modern day armed conflict and war which increasingly encompasses internal border conflicts and international terrorism. This changing nature of armed conflict impacts on the whole of civil society and calls for a diversity of strategies in which the recognition of the need to promote gender equality is a vital component. The EWL notes that while women have been and, in some instances remain, directly implicated in conflict and war, the diversity of women's lives coupled with the common experience they share of male oppression, gives them a legitimate voice to speak out against conflict and war. War promotes and enhances practices and behaviour that are less tolerated in times of peace, legitimating control and oppression of women, with the result that violence against women is normalized in the breakdown of the State of law and order. Violence against women in times of conflict and war is used as a tactic to humiliate, degrade and control the enemy.

Women also get involved in the conflict as combatants, by taking care of extended families in extremely adverse circumstances and by developing coping mechanisms to take over traditionally male occupations and responsibilities which enables them to gain exposure outside the private sphere. Therefore these added skills of women should in a post-conflict society give women the opportunity to participate actively in the process of reconstruction as they may not want to return to the *status quo ante bellum*. This wide range of activities requires a **gender perspective**, such as the reconstruction of civil society, reorganization of police and armed forces,

promotion of human rights, organization of elections, access to and control over resources (e.g. land issues for female head of households) and the setting-up of truth and reconciliation commissions.

Women have been excluded from participating in decision-making on conflict prevention, management and resolution and on post conflict peace building. The continuous absence of women from all decision-making posts, including in the diplomatic corps, leads to situations of conflict and war, as this cannot be separated from women's participation as a prerequisite for peace. Governments have failed to implement the historic UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and, at the level of the European Union (EU), the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament which calls for at least 40% women in all conflict prevention and resolution decision-making posts.

The EWL calls on the UN and the EU to condemn all forms of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict. The EWL calls on the EU in particular within its common defence policy to condemn and sanction European soldiers who engage in any form of gender-based violence while on mission in areas of armed conflict and to provide clear "Regulations and Rules" and "Codes of Conduct" inspired by those issued by the United Nations[1].

The EWL calls on the EU to adopt the UN Plan of Action proposed by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises[2].

Furthermore, the EWL calls on the EU to grant asylum to women fleeing conflict and war by recognising gender-based violence as a legitimate reason within the existing UN Geneva Convention of the Status of Refugees (1951) and to adopt the UN guidelines on "International Protection – Gender Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2)"[3].

The EWL calls on all donor countries to place women's human rights at the core of funding policies for reconstruction and development by ensuring that women avail of funds directly to invest in specialised services for the victims of rape and trauma in the wake of gender-based violence perpetrated during the conflict period; to seek redress through the mechanisms of international law in the aftermath of armed conflict; to participate and take leadership in reconstructing community life and to participate in decision-making at local, regional and national levels in line with UN Resolution 1325.

The EWL calls on the UN and the EU to adopt a gender budgeting approach to military expenditure in particular with regards to conflict prevention and in situations of post-conflict resolution and peace-building.

---

[1] United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules. Article 101, paragraph 3 of the Charter of the United Nations places an affirmative obligation on staff to uphold the highest standards of integrity. Cited in "Women, Peace and Security", study submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1325, 2002.

[2] See Plan of Action proposed by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee – Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises.

[3] UNHCR. Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, HCR/GIP/02/01, 7 May 2002.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Dominican Leadership Conference, Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, School Sisters of Notre Dame and Sisters of Mercy, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and Armenian International Women's Association, a non-governmental organization on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21226 (E) 090204

We, NGOs working at a grassroots level for gender equality and engaged in systemic and policy advocacy to promote the dignity and empowerment of all women, affirm the message in The Beijing Declaration, adopted by the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995 that "all governments [should] encourage men to participate fully in all actions towards gender equality" (paragraph 25).

Sadly, we must recognize that eight years after the Beijing Platform for Action men continue to hold dominant positions in institutional and social structures that perpetuate massive discrimination against women and girls and that systematically violate their human rights. This discrimination takes a variety of forms, from denial of education to girls and women and the exclusion of women from political participation to the subjection of women and girls to rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and other practices of male violence against women.

One of the most severe, devastating, and escalating practices of gender-based violence is the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, including prostitution, sex trafficking, the Internet bride industry, pornography, and sex tourism. While the international community has addressed the role that organized crime, government corruption, and economic policies have played in the global sex industry, until recently there has been little focus on the crucial role of the demand for prostitution by men and boys in fueling this human rights catastrophe.

Demand by men and boys for prostitution in the wealthy, so-called "receiving countries" and the billions of dollars it generates constitute the primary impetus for the trafficking of women and girls from poor, so-called "sending countries." Demand for prostitution by men in military service has fostered sex industry complexes outside military bases that exploit local women and girls and reward criminal enterprises that traffic in foreign-born women. The demand of men in wealthy countries for sexual and domestic servants has created the Internet bride and sex tourism industries and propelled growing numbers of women and girls from poor countries into situations of violence and degradation. The demand for prostitution by United Nations peacekeeping troops and humanitarian aid workers has led to the sexual exploitation of women and girls in dire situations of armed conflict and humanitarian crisis. The feminization of poverty has meant that even in impoverished communities women and girls are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation by local men and boys.

Until those men and boys who perpetrate sexual exploitation as buyers of prostitution are held accountable and non-offending men and boys hold accountable their peers who engage in sexual exploitation, the sex industry will continue to flourish and women and girls, individually and as a group, will continue to suffer irreparable harm. To date, the vast majority of activists and individuals working to stop the sexual exploitation of women and girls are female — a reality that must change if sexual exploitation is to be eradicated.

We are heartened by the fact that some men and boys have taken important leadership roles to stop the sexual exploitation of women and girls. In declaring that "sexual exploitation and sexual abuse violate universally recognized international legal norms and standards" and by issuing "special measures" to prohibit sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by United Nations staff, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has set an example of male leadership in this arena. In addition, there are men and boys in each world region who deserve recognition for their important contributions to this movement, among them Luis Enrique Costa Ramirez, Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Venezuela, who has pioneered a peer education program to raise the consciousness of youth in Caracas

about the harm of human trafficking; the research of Swedish social work professor Sven Axel-Mansson into the demand of Swedish men for prostitution; the advocacy of Prerana Co-Director Pravin Patkar on behalf of prostituted women in Mumbai; and the activism of Equality Now's Ken Franzblau against sex tourism by American men in the Philippines. We applaud their efforts and hope that these individual men will serve as role models for other men and boys.

There are many programmatic and institutional ways of promoting gender equality and curtailing the demand for prostitution. We appeal to each government to evaluate its own national plan of action to ensure that it includes practical and on-the-ground activities that ensure the equality of men and women and boys and girls. We urge policy and action in the following areas:

- Educational curricula in the lower grades that raise awareness about the harm of gender stereotypes and sexual objectification of women and girls and that promote gender inequality in relationships;
- Educational programs that expose the harm of all forms of pornography and prostitution;
- Training of all institutional players at all levels, including police, prosecutors, judges, and military personnel, to recognize prostituted girls and women as crime victims, not as immoral or criminal;
- Strong and effective prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women, including buyers and sellers of women and girls in prostitution and related practices of sexual exploitation;
- Funding for and dissemination of positive and creative public service messages against male violence against women, with the inclusion of popular male figures as spokespersons;
- Clear acknowledgement that the legalization or legitimization of prostitution or any reliance on prostitution as a source of national revenue fosters demand for prostitution and increases human trafficking;
- Ratification and implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (the "1949 Convention"); the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women ("CEDAW"); the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The demand for prostitution is a link in the global sex industry chain and can be broken. The Swedish government has reduced prostitution and trafficking by criminalizing prostitution buyers and promoting public education campaigns that hold ordinary Swedish men accountable for purchasing sex. In doing so, Sweden has set an important example for government action worldwide. The Trafficking Protocol to the Transnational Convention Against Organized Crime, which has recently come into force, sets a critically needed international standard by requiring states parties to "adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures... to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking." Sexual exploitation is not inevitable. If men and women acting in equal partnerships join forces to stop the global sex trade in women

and girls, we can achieve a world without sexual exploitation — a world in which no man or boy feels entitled to objectify or purchase the body and human dignity of any woman or girl.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21325 (E) 110204

The **"International Federation of Women in Legal Careers"** (I.F.W.L.C) is an international NGO founded in Paris in 1928, and has a consultative status with the ECOSOC, since 1961. It affiliates now national associations and individual members in Africa, America, Europe and Asia.

The **"International Federation of Women in Legal Careers"** activities are inspired in the United Nations Charter principles, as they are consecrated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The essentials goals being the eradication of all form of discrimination against Women and the promotion of Women Human Rights.

The **"International Federation of Women in Legal Careers"** assembled in its XVIII Congress in the city of Praia in Cape Verde, on the 6th to September 10, 2003, has studied and debated with attention the topic " WOMEN, PEACE AND SAFETY - THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE WOMEN" in the following aspects: The War, the penal and civil responsibility of the States; The Prevention and Resolution of the Conflicts – the role of the women; The effects of war in the infancy, and has approved a final document which focal points are as follows:

- Condemnation of any form of war, specifically unilateral war, considering it never constitutes a way of resolution of the conflicts;
- Recommendation, both to the States as to the individuals, to abstain to take part in any class of preparatory activity of the war;
- Commends that all the actions must promote a culture of peace, practising individually, and to level of the States, the objection of conscience against the war.

The **"International Federation of Women in Legal Careers"** has been working towards that goal, studying and debating the legal consequences of these matters in the different Seminars and Conferences that has been promoting in different countries around the world.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by the World Veterans Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21208 (E) 090204

The World Veterans Federation (WVF), founded in 1950 following the end of World War II, is an international non-governmental organization which brings together those who have experienced war, either as combatants, prisoners of war or as civilian victims of war. Our members represent those who have fought and suffered together or on opposite sides who are committed to helping build a more peaceful, just and free world and are dedicated the principles of the United Nations charter and to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We are pleased that the Commission has chosen as one of its thematic issues for its 48th session the topic: "women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building". Current wars are internal ones - ethnic, cultural, religious, economic conflicts – in which civilian women and children represent 90% of the casualties. Though ending conflicts is a major challenge to the United Nations, building a lasting peace has becomes as important an undertaking. After an armed conflict, it is essential to address the rehabilitation and reintegration of the veterans and civilian victims not only for humanitarian reasons but also to lay the foundations for future stable, law-abiding societies.

At its 24th General Assembly held in South Africa in December 2003 WVF passed a resolution recognizing "**that past experience of war veterans has shown that it is extremely difficult to overcome the consequences of war and that considerable financial and scientific support is required from parties involved and the international community help bring solutions to physical and psychological handicaps…"**

The World Veterans Federation early on, concerned about the situation and status of war veterans, had developed a document , "*Guidelines to Basic Rights for War Veterans and Victims of War"* that governments could use as a basis for legislation to address the various personal, social and economic problems of war veterans which hampered their reintegration into society. In the nineties, the WVF recognizing the changed nature of conflicts which saw 90% of casualties were civilians, revised its "*Guidelines to Basic Rights for War Veterans and Victims of War* to include "civilian victims of war". The Preamble states: "*these recommendations also take into account the changes in the nature of armed conflicts: the steadily increasing numbers of the resulting civilian victims of war, especially women and children, and the problems that the persons serving in the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces are facing."*

Women Experience War Differently - When the WVF recognized that women experience war differently than men, it created a Committee in 1984 to focus on the meaning and consequences of war

for women and how the WVF could best address them. This Committee on Women has raised the consciousness of the entire membership of WVF as to the terrible injustices and sufferings of women because of their gender during and after armed conflicts. The W VF since has become a champion of the universality of the human rights of women , frequently testifying at UN conferences and meetings. One issue that the WVF has given leadership is the case of the "comfort women" of World War II – the Asian women who were treated as sexual slaves by the advancing Japanese army -which has been thoroughly documented by the UN.

The experiences of the "comfort women" during World War II were not unique. Last year, UN Undersecretary General for Peacekeeping Jean-Marie Guehenno pointed out to the Security Council that women and girls suffered disproportionately during and after war, as existing inequalities were magnified and social networks broke down, making them more vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation. The Council condemned continuing violations of the human rights of women and girls in conflict situations and also recognized the vital role of women in promoting peace. Member states were urged to increase the participation of women at decision making levels, as called for in Resolution 1325 which reaffirmed the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in postwar reconstruction.

Expert Group Meeting. – We are pleased that the UN DAW- convened Expert Group meeting Nov. 10-13, 2003, in Ottawa focused on "**peace agreements as a means for promoting gender equality and insuring participation of women".** The Aide Memoire and background documents are valuable resources for the Commission. Women's participation in peace negotiations are crucial if women are to be play the roles in peace keeping and peace building actions that Resolution 1325 calls for. It is essential that women's voices be heard early on in the process so that their interests are included as new or revised legal and political structures emerge from the chaos of war-torn societies. History teaches us that from the ashes of war rebuilt societies emerge that may or may not improve the status of women. The landscape changes, but unless there is careful planning, old inequalities restricting women's rights may persist.

Women Experience Peace Differently - Just as women mostly experience war differently than men, they experience the subsequent peace differently as well. Not only are they more likely to be civilians, hence, the bulk of the casualties, but their pre-war status and limitations diminish their legal rights. Besides displacement, deprivation , loss of family and/or provider, women suffer rape and other sexual violence, and are victims of abductions and trafficking . They may be stateless, refugees, without legal identity , without the protection of any national or international entity. They often have to reconstitute their lives without the support of family or community.

The need for rehabilitative and reintegrative services for male soldiers is generally accepted, even if there are great variations as to how much help the state can provide. There is however much less recognition that women impacted by war need assistance and benefits. Many suffer disabilities, malnutrition, reproductive illnesses, PTSD or other psychological ailments. Without preparation, they ar thrust into roles as providers and/or heads of household, with many others dependent upon them. Their financial and economic situations may be desperate. Yet these victims of war are not seen as requiring assistance in reintegrating into society.

Especially desperate are the women and girls who suffered sexual violence. A psychiatrist investigating the impacts of the invasion of Kuwait on the population in the first Gulf War, suggested tha if rape were acknowledged as a **war-injury**, it might be more successfully treated. In societies where rape is shameful or the victim is blamed, the crime is often not even acknowledged. Even if a legal remedy is available, often women and girls would not agree to testify or admit that they had been violate – the ostracism they would suffer would be too high a price. With the creation of the International Criminal Court (which was long sought by the WVF), and its characterization of rape as a war crime , hopefully, the impunity that too long attended such crimes will be eliminated, lessening its future occurrence.

During legislation conferences that the World Veterans Federation has sponsored to better acquaint governments with the needs of their veterans and civilian victims , we have come across a number of instances where women's war-connected disabilities are either ignored, or given minimal attention.. Another omission is the lack of benefits for the wives, daughters, and mothers who serve as a full-time "nurse" and caretaker for a disabled veteran. Although these women's lives have been totally disrupted and shrunk , they are not seen as victims of war and are ineligible for benefits or services.

Experiences Change Women - Women are often changed by their war-related experiences and emerge from their ordeals with new strengths and expectations, unwilling to accept injustice, inequality and discrimination in all aspects of their personal, social and economic lives. Many find within themselves capabilities they did not know they had. Some develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills. As one woman once put it: " After what I have done and seen, I am not going back to the broom closet." The women wh › fought in liberation movements or colonial wars took on men's roles successfully and served with equal distinction. These women are empowered and resistant to returning to a status quo ant

Opportunity for Change - A peace process whose goal is to restore a failed state or put back together the pieces of a destroyed state, presents an opportunity to embark on a journey, often difficult, c

societal transformation through changes in laws and institutions. When women are part of the peace negotiations and have roles in the post war reconstruction process, there is the chance to mold a different future than the past. In more than one case when war ends, men who had accepted women as equals during the fighting reverse course and push women out of the leadership roles they had filled. Women are expected to return to the status quo ante, second class citizens, bereft of their human rights, in an unequal and repressive social and political environment. Women who were in the Eritrean-Ethiopian war, in the African National Congress, and other conflicts where women had served in a great many different capacities, have attested to this development, as have American and British women who were in military and home forces, and war-support industries during World War I and World War II.

. .

Afghan Experience - The recent convening of a Loya Jirga in Afghanistan to write a new constitution which will lay the groundwork for a reconstituted post-war society demonstrates the importance of women being involved early on in the reconstruction process. Afghan women and their supporters sought wording in the new constitution that would restore the equal rights of women which had been abrogated by the Taliban . Though there was precedent in previous Afghan constitutions for such wording, substantial resistance came from extremist elements(including militant armed war lords) to undermine efforts to institutionalize women's rights. An Afghan woman leader reports that Afghan women supported by some men, finally persuaded a majority of delegates to enshrine women's rights once more into the Constitution, even mandating a minimum number of women from each province to be elected. If these rights had not been written into the Constitution, women's future roles and rights would have been circumscribed .

Role of Men and Boys - The WVF is also pleased to support the other thematic issue under consideration by the Commission this year: "**Role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality"** As a human rights organization dedicated to gender equality, the WVF through its policies and actions translates its philosophy by supporting ,in all areas of life, a true **partnership** between men and women. With the bulk of its membership men, WVF provides a realistic model for a dynamic partnership of men and women working together for human rights and peace. Member organizations are encouraged to translate the WVF positions by providing leadership in their own countries.

Among the major issues WVF has endorsed are reinforcing and building a consensus for the universality of the human rights of women. The organization has passed dozens of resolutions supporting women's drive for equality, hailing the Beijing Platform for Action and ending discrimination against

women in all areas of political, social and economic life. WVF has consistently endorsed UNESCO's initiatives on behalf of a "Culture of Peace, calling upon its member associations to join in and initiate projects and programs on a local level that would expand the goals of this important venture. In October 2002, the WVF Standing Committee on European Affairs held a Seminar on the "*Culture of Peace and the Dialogue Among Civilizations*". WVF has made its views known in the international community through representation at the United Nations and its agencies and within the NGO community.

Even without a so-called "critical mass", women have played more and more important roles in every area of WVF activity, including leadership at the highest levels, serving on the Council and the Executive Board of the organization. Most of WVF's regional committees have working groups on women; their meetings more and more have focused on the status and situation of women, particularly those who have been impacted by wars. By emphasizing the partnership of men and women within the organization, it has fostered partnerships in other venues. The WVF has evolved into a champion for all women's full human rights, working in harmony with women's organizations and other NGOs as the key issues of concern to women during the eighties and nineties were debated within the UN and the rest of the international community.

Recent resolutions passed by WVF reveal this strong commitment:

"WVF condemns all violations of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict....Expresses the hope that in the near future all the countries in the world will have to participate and seek proper and effectives responses through the UN and specialized agencies and the international NGO's concerned to eliminate the violation of the rights of women in war time, emphasizing the need for appropriate systems and special compensation for the victims..."

"Considering that pensions and allowances granted to widows and dependents of war veterans and war disabled are insufficient and do not enable them to meet their needs...Urges...those governments concerned to introduce legislative measures that would guarantee pensions and allowances and harmonize legal provisions in order to avoid inequalities.....

(Re The International Criminal Court) " WVF...urges the member associations to be strong advocates for gender justice so that gender-based crimes against women will be prosecuted with the same dedication as other crimes and no exemptions would be allowed for religious or cultural reasons...."

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21331 (E) 110204

Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide organisation for women in management and the professions with approximately 100,000 members in 124 countries and territories around the world who are actively engaged working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women.

Soroptimist International recognises HIV/AIDS to be a global epidemic threatening human security and survival, and human rights and human development. As a non-governmental organisation, SI is committed to playing its part as a formal Partner with the World Health Organisation (WHO), in the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, - UNAIDS.

Of great concern to our members is the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and children everywhere but particularly in the developing world.

Women are not only biologically vulnerable they are also made additionally vulnerable owing to their lack of economic and social power and their lack of control over their sexual and reproductive rights. Women who become infected with HIV tend to be diagnosed later than men, participate in fewer clinical trials, have less access to therapy, suffer greater stigma and isolation, and are more likely to die from AIDS and to pass on the virus to their children.

Statistics indicate that in Africa child mortality could triple within the next twenty years, that 13 million children will become orphaned, growing up alone because of HIV/AIDS. The impact of the disease on families is one of the greatest social catastrophes of modern times. Our members feel that the well being of women and children needs to be placed at the centre of prevention and support strategies.

Whilst recognising that there has been many initiatives aimed at reducing women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS during the last twenty years, Soroptimist International urges governments and all other appropriate bodies to redouble their efforts to:

- Provide speedy, new and effective prevention programmes targeted at women and girls
- Ensure equal access and medical care to HIV infected women
- Give particular attention to the treatment of pregnant women and to the newly born children of HIV positive mothers
- Resource major efforts in research and treatment development and include women in the decision making process
- Provide adequate resources to support both HIV and AIDS victims
- Establish sex education programmes for teenage girls and boys in public schools; and investigate current programmes, where they exist, to correct deficiencies.
- Support UNAIDS programmes and projects with financial resources and actions.

For its part Soroptimist International will continue to: -

- Support work and clinical studies to enhance gender equality and equity
- Raise public awareness and disseminate information on HIV/AIDS

- Lobby governments and international agencies for increased resources and research
- Encourage and support the empowerment of HIV positive women in capacity building and inclusion in the strategic planning process; and also provide assistance with their outreach and networking
- Engage with men as partners in the fight against HIV and AIDS by encouraging them to take care of themselves, their partners and their families.

Our members will network with governments, non-governmental, voluntary and all other appropriate bodies, including the United Nations and the World Health Organisation to encourage complete inter-agency collaboration and co-operation, in recognition that only a global programme can be truly effective in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade (Legion of Good Will), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21069 (E) 100204

Regarding the 48th Session of Status of Women thematic unity on conflict prevention the Legion of Good Will, a Brazilian NGO in general Consultative Status with the Economical and Social Council (ECOSOC), in its 54 years of existence defends the theme starting from the principle that in order to guarantee "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building", it must be primarily destructed the spirit of gender inequities because the so expected PEACE amongst people begin first inside of their homes. In order to live a life far from conflicts, the Legion of Good Will's Leader José de Paiva Netto does his recommendation about the attainment of PEACE when he warns in his book *Reflexões da Alma* (Reflections of the Soul) : "(...) There are those who praise blood battlefields, creators of ruins, widows and orphans. While we, the Human Beings, do not discover another itinerary to our evolution as members of society, closer we will be to the so-called irrationals. I don't fool myself. It's evident to say that this situation will not be changed right a way, but it is urgent to be on the side of those who do not want to witness the dryness of our Planet as a spoiled fruit, or to blow up the planet as a monumental cosmic bomb. Is it a crime to think in that way?"

Since the beginning of life in society, women were considered to be inferior than man. In the last century, around the 1930's, women had no right to vote, very seldom they could drive a car. The Legion of Good Will defends a just, political, cultural, scientific, philosophical gender equality issues. As it is stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his/her country. The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of women's social, economic and political status is essential for the achievement of both transparent and accountable government and administration and sustainable development in all areas of life." (Excerpt extracted from Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action – Women in Power and Decision-making).

As much as women in our days can lead big corporations, pilot international aircrafts, convey operations in the hospital's surgery centers, take over the labor market, conclude college, approach to the same rights as men, there still is a long task to be accomplished. It's unacceptable to admit that in the 21st century , women have still suffered with the results of a millennial culture. The Legion of Good Will brings to the 48th Commission on Status of Women its cooperation for the absolute fulfillment of Beijing Platform of Action, working to facilitate partnership between men and women in all sections, wherever it is politically, culturally, scientifically, educationally and so on. As the President of the Legion of Good Will, journalist and writer Paiva Netto addresses gender issues, it is frequently noted his vision about the topic saying "To value the Woman means to dignify the Man". Following his dialect, the Organization reinforces the important role of women in the social arena. The Organization performs its work on the motto "women has the right to become President of a country, a religious leader, a CEO, a captain of aircraft and transatlantic ships; she has the right to become a doctor, an engineer, a teacher...thus she can actively act in all ranks of society. At work, there is a fair concept of value among men and women: that of competence". (Paiva Netto, extracted from the book Reflections and Thoughts, published in 1987).

As a result of innumerous financial and psychological problems lived by women to their fully completion of a healthy pregnancy, to decently raise their children the LGW created several programs to minimize this emergent situation in its Community and Educational Centers, amongst them the program "SER Mulher e Cidadão-Bebê" (Woman BEING and Baby-Citizen). This program develops a variety of integrated actions to all family members, independent of their ages. The main objective of the Program is to rescue human and professional self-esteem, intellectually and emotionally. A team of professional volunteers brings forth activities to improve the quality of life of those people as a whole, putting together ethics and spirituality to the material values, aiming at the true exercise of citizenship.

One of the LGW's activities in partnership with private section, governmental department, volunteer support to effectively generate results, is to enrich the quality of life of the most under-privileged women in society through educational conferences, beauty classes, workshops, occupational courses to improve family financial resources, orientation in the area of health to facilitate information on outpatient hospital admittance procedure, juridical and psychological help. Emphasis is given to the project Baby-Citizen to strengthen the relationship between mother — child, to encourage the full prenatal, to rescue the meaning of pregnancy and combat child and mother malnutrition.

The woman starts attending the program's practices since her third month of pregnancy. During all the pregnancy stages she is helped to prepare the unborn trousseau, she performs all clinical exams, she receives food items complement, as well as speech therapy, nursing, music-therapy assistance to her and her family. Women attend workshops about unborn caring, alternate food, breast- feeding, family-planning, sexually transmitted disease, breast and cervical cancer, etc. The same importance is given to the motivation of praying together in family.

The practices continue until the baby turns one year of age. During this year, mothers come in groups to the workshops. They are oriented about infant malnutrition, nutrition, day care center, sanitation and baby oral health. Another activity to guarantee women's rights is the Jesus Day Care Center, part of the educational complex – "Instituto de Educação da LBV" (LGW's Educational Institute), that prepares the student to achieve his/her greatest potential. Every year more than 1.000 students are taken from the social risk situation and are prepared for the labor market competition. The educational complex is composed by modern research centers, physics, chemistry, biology and computer laboratories, three gymnasiums and a big recreation area.

In this context, the Jesus Day Care Center has a preponderant role because children since their first years of age, being in the nursery or pre-k, are involved by the Legion in the learning process with solid basis. These children will turn out to be an adult prepared for life, a complete Human Being, with brain and heart connected. The differential of this educational complex is the process of the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, introducing values of Spirituality, an accurate taste for Solidarity practices in students' character. It enables individuals to contribute to the non-stopping improvement of social environment.

From the 1990 decade, the Legion made available hundreds of schools, Educational and Community Centers throughout Brazil and abroad. In those centers the LGW offers free-of-charge early education, elementary, junior high school education, occupational courses to thousands of children and youth. As an example, we have the "LGW Educational, Cultural and Community Center" in the city of Rio de Janeiro, the "José de Paiva Netto Institute" in São Paulo, "Alziro Zarur Home and Park" in Glorinha, Rio Grande do Sul, and many other modern occupational school centers in Brazil. The Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy is applied to LGW's educational centers to develop Brain and Heart together. It conciliates intellect and feeling under the light of spirituality. It contributes for the solution of the greatest human conflicts and guarantee women's equal participation on gender equality issues.

In order to prevent conflict and empower women on conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace building the Legion of Good Will suggests that the 48th Session of Status of Women, Governmental and Civil Society maximize strategies to rescue the quality of public and familiar education, all based upon the adoption of spiritual values.

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/18

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Oxfam International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21081 (E) 100204

About Oxfam GB

Oxfam's mission is to work with others to overcome poverty and suffering. We work in more than 75 countries worldwide. Our activities include advocacy, education, campaigning, and development and humanitarian programmes. We focus on five key aims: sustainable livelihoods; quality education and health care; protection from disasters and violence; right to be heard; and right to equity (gender and diversity).[i]

An emerging focus on men's role in promoting gender equality

Oxfam's commitment to gender equality is rooted in twenty years of analysis and practical action in line with feminist goals. Our understanding of gender mainstreaming has been to focus on programmes whose immediate beneficiaries are women and their dependents, based on continuing evidence that women are the majority in the most economically needy groups in almost all societies, and that women's experience of poverty consists not only of economic want but of social and political exclusion. This is culturally condoned in the vast majority of countries throughout the world.

Our 'Policy on Gender Equality' (2003) reasserts that the vast majority of women have less recourse than men to legal recognition and protection; lower access to public knowledge and information; less decision-making power both within and outside the home; little control over fertility, sexuality and marital choices. However analysis of the obstacles to gender mainstreaming has led Oxfam (and other organisations), in the last two-three years, to acknowledge that addressing men is an essential element of efforts to build gender equality; our policy therefore highlights that any work with men and men's groups will be to this end.

Exploring work with men — Oxfam's Gender Equality and Men (GEM) project

The Gender Equality and Men (GEM) project started in 2002 as an initiative by its UK Poverty Programme and its Middle East, Eastern Europe and CIS (MEEECIS) region, with funding from Oxfam and the UK Department for International Development. The project has been assisting Oxfam to explore how it can advance gender equality and poverty reduction by incorporating men and boys more fully in the organisation's gender work. The project has supported activities such as:

- regional workshops on men and masculinities in the UK, East Asia and South Africa;
- an internal course ("the Gender Journey") that has trained a number of key male advocates of gender equality in our organisation;
- piloting new approaches to work with men in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Albania, and the Negev Desert (Israel);
- policy and practice change at different levels of government (Yemen and the UK[ii]).

The current phase of GEM entails the publication of an Oxfam book *('Gender Equality and Men: Learning from Practice')* in June 2004. This edited collection builds on previous publications from Oxfam GB[iii], bringing together contributions

from fourteen development practitioners and researchers working in many parts of the world who are seeking to promote gender equality among men. In our comments below we draw upon the preliminary conclusions of the book.

The added value of including men in gender equality strategies

Oxfam recognises there is a risk that efforts to involve men in gender equality strategies may divert attention and funding from programmes that support women. Work with men may be seen as an attempt to co-opt existing gender work to support rather than challenge existing inequality. And resistance among men themselves can be hard to overcome. However, there may be risks if men are *not* involved. Working with women only can leave power relations unchallenged, increase women's workload, and reinforce static definitions of men (e.g. as breadwinners) and women (e.g. as carers). There are potential gains from focusing on men and boys. As Kaufman has suggested[iv], such efforts may (inter alia):

- create a broad social consensus among men and women on issues that previously have been marginalised as only of importance to women;
- mobilise resources and institutions controlled by men, resulting in a net gain in resources available to meet the needs of women and girls;
- isolate those men working to preserve men's power and privilege and to deny rights to women and children;
- contribute to raising the next generation of boys and girls in a framework of gender equality;
- change the attitudes and behaviour of men and boys, and improve the lives of women and girls in the home, workplace, and community.

Effective practice in engaging men in gender equality work

Based on examples of interventions in five fields (reproductive and sexual health; fatherhood; gender-based violence; livelihoods; and work with young men) from a range of countries[v], our forthcoming publication indicates the following elements are critical to effective practice:

1. *Developing a conceptual framework for thinking about men, masculinities and gender relations.* Drawing upon the work of theorists such as Connell, key aspects are: the invisibility of gender issues to most men and the notion of the 'patriarchal dividend' (i.e. the privileges that all men draw upon simply by virtue of being male); the commonalities and differences between men, as well as between men and women; the dominance of specific forms of ('hegemonic'[vi]) masculinity; how masculinities are actively constructed; the costs associated with masculinity for both women and men; and the dynamic nature of masculinities over time.

2. *Positive messages:* In general, it is essential to engage men in gender equality work via positive messages that promote awareness and understanding among them. It is therefore important to use language that resonates with them, avoids attributing blame and encourages positive involvement. However such an approach must not undermine improvements in the position of women and girls, or avoid addressing some men's negative or harmful behaviours.

3. *Effective Messengers:* There are advantages in getting boys or men to engage other boys or men with gender issues (e.g. around men's violence) and of supporting and nurturing such groups. Supportive female voices – including in particular sisters, mothers, grandmothers, wives, and girlfriends – can also be instrumental in encouraging men to change. An important motivator for men is seeing the effects of gender discrimination on women and girls they know.

4. *Engaging with men's emotional and personal lives:* There is a clearly negative impact for men, women and children of men conforming to restrictive definitions of masculinity - dominant images of men needing to present themselves as 'strong, tough, in control, independent'. Attempts to encourage men to engage more actively with their emotional and personal lives are essential, and organisations should create space for men to undertake such exploration. In situations where they feel they will not be treated judgmentally, men are able and willing to open up about personal issues that matter greatly to them. However, the pace of change can be slow and efforts need to be sustained.

5. *Appropriate environment and delivery:* There are venues where and times when men congregate – such as at sports events and religious celebrations, in workplaces, and in social locations such as bars or cafes – and these can be focal points for intervention. There is also value in creating spaces where men can meet away from the 'public gaze'. In a public environment, men are less likely to talk openly and honestly, and are very unlikely to show their vulnerability. The reverse tends to be true in 'private' spaces[vii].

The perspectives and assumptions of staff within health and welfare services are highly relevant too. Tackling these issues requires efforts to make gender visible within welfare services, by providing opportunities for staff to reflect upon the gendered nature of the work and their practice.[viii]

6. *The process of change:* Sometimes personal change in men can come about as a result of a significant life event: becoming a father or grandfather; relationship breakdown; illness; or the death of a loved one. Sometimes it can come through personal realisation of the effects of male power (see 2 above). Gender workshops can also promote change, if logically structured and sequenced over time.

Opportunities to promote change can be closely linked to the context within specific societies. Societal 'crises' (including, for example, the HIV epidemic, large scale unemployment and poverty, and panics about men's violence) can all give rise to shifts and crises in gender relations, providing new opportunities for intervention.

7. *Alliance-building:* Although not widespread, there are examples of men working together for gender justice (e.g. gay activism around HIV/Aids, the White Ribbon Campaign). Men's groups have much to learn from feminist groups; such connections can reduce the risk that men will shore up traditional masculinities, and provide a practical illustration of how men's and women's interests can coincide (e.g. in addressing violence against women).

8. *Monitoring programme effectiveness:* Given the embryonic nature of much work with men, only a few examples of research into the effectiveness of programmes exist (e.g. Programme H in Brasil). Further monitoring is necessary, both to demonstrate whether such work has an impact (and if so, what kind), and to clarify whether devoting resources to it is valuable.

Challenges for Development Organisations

The patriarchal culture common within many development organisations, with men dominating the upper echelons, has tended to obstruct progress [ix]. Contributions to the GEM book suggest that development organisations should:

- review the direction and content of programmes to ensure that the points outlined above are implemented, and that positive initiatives are publicised and shared;
- maintain existing levels of funding for work on gender equality with women, and provide additional funding for work with men;
- ensure that gender equality work takes place with women, men and in mixed-sex groups as appropriate;
- model gender equitable behaviours at institutional policy and project level, and assist staff – especially male staff – to see the connections between the personal and the professional spheres;
- create space for informal, open dialogue on gender issues and sharing about family life and gender relations within and beyond the office;
- develop induction and training in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming;
- train male facilitators to build capacity;

implement working practices such as paternity and maternity leave and flexible working hours, and encourage senior (male managers to act as role models.

---

[i] See www.oxfamgb.org for further details

[ii] **Ruxton S** (2002) *Men, Masculinities and Poverty in the UK*, Oxford: Oxfam GB

[iii] **Sweetman C** (1997) *Men and Masculinity*, Focus on Gender paper, Oxford: Oxfam GB; **Chant S, Guttman M** (2000) *Mainstreaming Men into Gender and Development*, working paper, Oxford: Oxfam GB; **Sweetman C** (2001) *Men's Involvement in Gender and Development Policy and Practice*, working paper, Oxford: Oxfam GB.

[iv] **Kaufman M** (2003) *The Aim Framework: Addressing and Involving Men and Boys* To Promote Gender Equality and End Gender Discrimination and Violence, UNICEF. Full text on www.michaelkaufman.com/articles . See also **Lang J** (2002) *Gender Is Everyone's Business: Programming with Men to Achieve Gender Equality*, Workshop Report 10-12 June, Oxford: Oxfam GB (available on ww.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/gender/gem/workshop.htm)

[v] Including Brasil, ***Error! Main Document Only.***Canada, the Caribbean, Georgia, India, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Timor Leste, UK, and Yemen

[vi] 'Hegemonic masculinity' is a concept that draws upon the ideas of Gramsci. It refers to the dynamic cultural process which guarantees (or is taken to guarantee) the dominant position of men and the subordination of women. See **Connell R.** (1995) *Masculinities*, Cambridge: Polity Press

[vii] **Lloyd T** (1997) *Let's Get Changed Lads: Developing Work with Boys and Young Men*, London: Working With Men

[viii] **Ruxton S** (2001)'*Men and child welfare services in the UK'*, in **Sweetman C** (ed.), *Beyond Rhetoric: Men's Involvement in Gender and Development Policy and Practice*, Oxfam Working Paper, Oxford: Oxfam GB

[ix] **Chant S, Guttman M** (2000) *Mainstreaming Men into Gender and Development*, working paper, Oxford: Oxfam GB. See also **Longwe S** (1995) *'A development agency as a patriarchal cooking pot: the evaporation of policies for women's advancement'*, in **MacDonald M**, *Women's Rights and Development*, Working Paper, Oxfam: Oxford

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/18/Corr.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 February 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Oxfam Great Britain, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Corrigendum

The title should read as above.

04-25134 (E) 270204

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/19

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21238 (E) 100204

According to statistics from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, as of the end of 2002, an estimated 42 million people worldwide – 38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children younger than 15 years – were living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 70 percent of these people (29.4 million) live in Sub-Saharan Africa; another 17 percent (7.2) million live in Asia. Of the estimated 15,603 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in 2001, approximately 52 percent were among blacks, 29 percent among whites, 18 percent among Hispanics, and less than 1 percent among Asians/Pacific Islanders and American Indians/Alaska Natives.

The Department further confirms that racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States, primarily African Americans and Hispanics, constitute 57 percent of the more than 800,000 cases of AIDS reported to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) since the epidemic began in 1981. African Americans make up almost 38 percent of all AIDS cases reported in the United States, yet according to the United States Census Bureau, they comprise only 12 percent of the United States population. Hispanics represent 18 percent of all AIDS cases and are approximately 13 percent of the United States population. Injection drug use is a major factor in the spread of HIV in minority communities. Other factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS in these communities include men who have sex with men (MSM) and increasingly, heterosexual transmission.

The Center for Disease Control reports that:

As of December 2001, African Americans and Hispanics represented 52 percent of AIDS cases reported among males and 78 percent of those in females;

As of December 2001, 58 percent of all women reported with AIDS are African American and 20 percent are Hispanic;

African American children represent 58 percent of all pediatric AIDS cases;

Of the 175 pediatric AIDS cases reported in 2001, 139 (79 percent) were in African Americans and Hispanics;

AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American men ages 25-44.

The work of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in prevention and "wellness" translates into health education programs, health laws and provision of health care services for those in need. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority supports medical research that examines illnesses that victimize specific segments of the nation's population, particularly African Americans.

Through the work of the chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., located around the world, the Sorority is taking a major leadership role in educating the global community on how to decrease the AIDS pandemic, thus promoting health and wellness and eliminating the destruction of African American families. Statistics convey that there is a disproportionate occurrence of the AIDS disease among African Americans. AIDS is among the ten leading causes of death for African American women of all ages and the second most frequent cause of death for African American women of childbearing age.

As part of the Sorority's Summit V: Health and Healing initiative, the 900-plus Delta chapters conduct ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs.

According to the United States Surgeon General, the HIV/AIDS epidemic "has evolved from one centered on white gay men to one increasingly impacting people of color, women and the young". For this reason, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. has chosen to continue Summit V: Health and Healing. The Sorority's effort focuses on an intense HIV/AIDS Education Campaign. It began by encouraging local chapters to implement internal educational awareness workshops. This enabled the Sorority members to better understand the

drastic impact HIV/AIDS is having on African American women of all ages and youth. In addition, for the past three years, chapters have participated in the Sorority's International Day of Service for HIV/AIDS (IDS). This public awareness program ranges in activities from letters and telephone calls to policymakers to organized rallies, testing and screening, counseling, and fund raising events. Summit V: Health and Healing is a means through which Deltas throughout the world assist in:

- Informing and educating the public and families about women's health issues;
- Developing community partnerships to help inform the public and provide access to services;
- Providing leadership for supporting policy development, promoting and enforcing legal requirements that protect the health and safety of women; and
- Supporting research and political efforts to gain new insights and innovative solutions to health problems impacting women.

In promoting health and wellness on HIV/AIDS in a foremost manner, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc established an International Day of Service (IDS) to be held in March of each year. On that day, the 900 plus Delta chapters in America and abroad present conventional and innovative programming initiatives to educate men, women and children on HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, provide testing, raise funds for research and services, and petition policymakers in an effort to win the battle against HIV/AIDS. Although this is a designated time and directive, chapters conduct these types of activities throughout the year.

Furthermore, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc brings a profound interest in and commitment to the preservation, protection, nurturing and education of young African American men. Studies have shown that one of the most important factors in the success of the young black male is his relationship with his mother or other important female figures in his life. As a national service Sorority made up of more than 200,000 college educated, predominantly African American women, one of Delta's objectives is to develop and implement, through its Summit III initiative, programs that focus on education, housing, employment and personal development for boys ranging from 10-16 years old.

In addition, in February 1985, Delta Sigma Theta launched a massive "Just Say No to Drugs" campaign with its undergraduate chapters to help black youth "Just Say No" to drugs. Initially, thirty-five chapters served as pilot sites to begin implementation. The project is conducted nation-wide by many Delta undergraduate chapters. The project is targeted for youth 7-15 years of age. The Delta "Just Say No" campaign is unique in several ways. It is conducted totally by members of college-based chapters and it was the first "Just Say No" project to be implemented by a national organization. Funding was received from the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Office of Minority Health Concerns, both of which were agencies of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

The Delta Alcohol, Drug Abuse and AIDS Community Education Project (ADACE) is another program designed to enable the Sorority to assume a leadership role in alcohol, drug abuse and AIDS awareness, treatment and prevention. The target population group for the project is African American females between the ages of 12-19. Delta launched this community education effort due to the increased risk African American women, especially younger women, face in becoming infected with HIV/AIDS and the heightened threat that young African American females will become alcohol and drug abusers.

HIV/AIDS is invading and destroying healthy individuals and families of people of color throughout the United States and the world in disproportionate numbers. The need for cross-disciplinary collaboration has become more evident over the course of the drug abuse and HIV/AIDS epidemics, not only because their interrelationships have become increasingly complex but also because we are witnessing an epidemiological synergy of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and other serious blood-borne diseases (such as hepatitis B and C viruses). Therefore, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. reaffirms its commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention and education campaigns. The Sorority further urges other organizations in the African American community and other communities of color to conduct similar campaigns. In addition, the Sorority urges lawmakers at every level of government to fully fund programs for research, prevention and the expansion of access to medical care for the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS for African Americans and

communities of color throughout the world. The work of the Sorority on this issue truly reflects the theme of its national Social Action Commission, "Social Action: It's Personal, It's Local, It's Global".

United Nations E/CN.6/2004/NGO/20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2004

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 3 (c) (i) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Statement submitted by Associated Country Women of the World, Christian Children's Fund, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of University Women, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, United States of America, League of Women Voters of the United States, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers of St. Dominic, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic and School Sisters of Notre Dame, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and International Union for Health Education and World Organization for Early Childhood Education, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

* E/CN.6/2004/1.

04-21087 (E) 100204

The Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF advocates for girls' rights by taking a life cycle approach to gender issues. The NGOs signing this statement believe that this approach is of great importance in considering the two areas of concern being addressed at this 48th Session of the CSW.

It is critical to remember that girls are the women of tomorrow and that action must be taken to ensure their rights as children and later as women. Guarantees of girls' rights are included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

During this session of the Commission on the Status of Women the role of men and boys in gender equality will be explored. This must not be seen as a means of diminishing men and boys but rather as a means by which all people, men and boys, women and girls can expand their well-being.

Two primary approaches to furthering this goal are of special importance to girls. The first is the role of the father and the second is the critical need for early childhood education that will give both girls and boys a respect for the needs, rights and strengths of others regardless of gender.

In societies where the power within families lies with men, fathers must be encouraged to ensure their girls of equal protections and rights. A major step to be taken is to provide girls with equal access to education. Girls must also be assured of equal treatment with their brothers in terms of birth registration, nutrition, health care and respect as well. The alarming growth in the HIV/AIDS pandemic seen in many parts of the world results in large part from the vulnerability of girls who have not been given these protections. In some parts of the world where the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is growing most rapidly, girls are becoming infected at a rate many times that of boys.

Additionally the exploitation of girls' labor, which both prevents them from achieving an adequate education and grows out of their lack of adequate marketable skills, is a serious abrogation of girls rights.

It has been shown that if girls are to receive the rights guaranteed to all children, these rights must be protected within the family and the community as well as by statute. Statutory protections must be bolstered by a willingness of all segments of society to uphold the law. A most effective way of enlisting men and boys in building gender equality is to begin in childhood by building respect for all at the earliest stages of socialization. Early childhood education programs must be developed which underline this mutual respect while acknowledging the culture and traditions of the society.